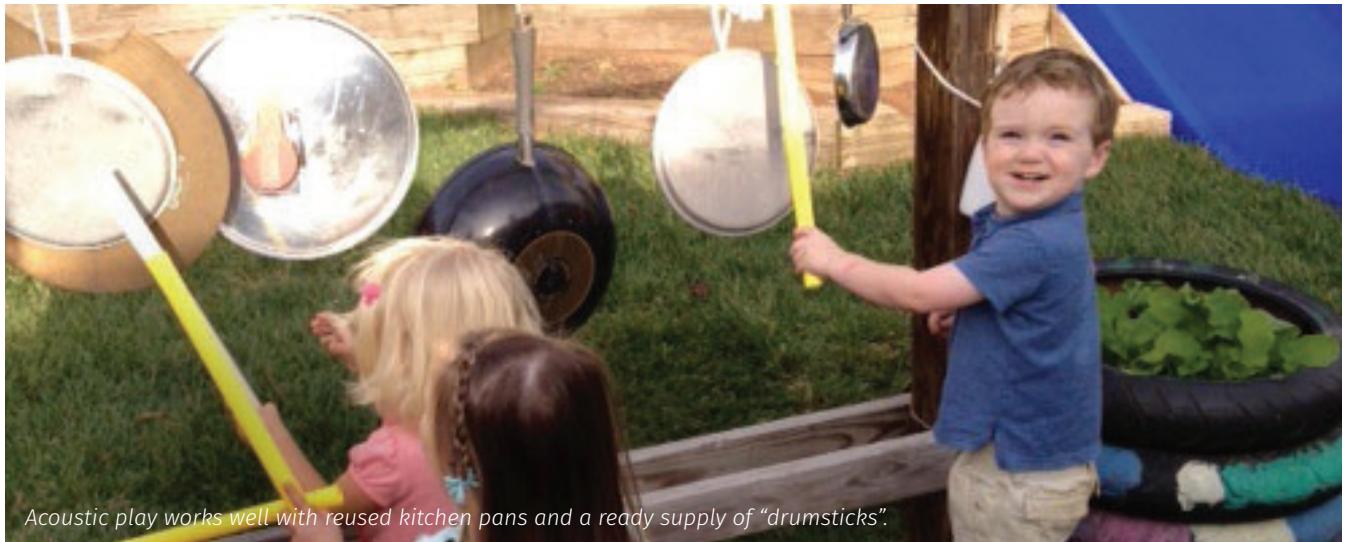


Acoustic Play



Acoustic play works well with reused kitchen pans and a ready supply of “drumsticks”.



▲ Combining settings adds value in small spaces. Here, acoustic play in a teepee.

Acoustic play (dare we call it “music”?) is a popular outdoor sensory activity. Children enjoy producing sounds, testing the environment’s responsiveness, and comparing the results with different materials. For children with disabilities, acoustic play may be highly stimulating.

An acoustic play setting could be as small as a set of chimes in a tree or as large as an elaborate stand with outdoor drums, tambourines, bells, and whistles. Kitchen utensils commonly used in acoustic play settings can be found inexpensively at local second-hand stores. If one day you decide your own kitchen needs upgrading, utensils can take on a new playful purpose.

MATERIALS

- Pots, pans, lids, spoons
- Chimes
- Bottles filled with dry beans
- Bells
- “Drumsticks”
- PVC pipes cut to different lengths
- Buckets
- Outdoor instruments

1. **Gather & create sound-making objects.**
2. **Find and/or build a structure to attach the sound-makers (such as a fence, a post or from a tree).**
3. **Secure sound-makers with outdoor-quality cord. Make sure they hang freely for clean sounds.**
4. **Provide sticks, spoons, “drumsticks,” etc.**
5. **Remember to ask if the neighbors are music lovers!**